

REMARKS:

- 1) Referring to item 10) of the Office Action Summary, please indicate the acceptance of the drawings filed on March 1, 2002.
- 2) This Response after Final aims to place the application directly into allowable condition, without raising any new issues that would require further search or consideration. Particularly, both independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended to incorporate the indicated allowable subject matter of prior claim 13. Thus, consideration and entry of this Response after Final are appropriate, and are respectfully requested.
- 3) Referring to the bottom of page 3 and top of page 4 of the Office Action, the indication of allowable subject matter in prior claim 13 is appreciated. As mentioned above, both independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of prior claim 13. Claims 4, 13, 14 and 15 have been canceled. In view of the indicated allowable subject matter, independent claim 1, its dependent claims 2, 3, 12 and 16, and independent claim 17, should now be allowable.
- 4) Referring to pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the rejection of claims 1 to 4, 12 and 14 to 17 as obvious over Yoshimura et al. in view of Ebel et al. has been obviated by the present amendment. Namely, both independent claims 1 and 17 now incorporate the allowable subject matter of non-rejected prior claim 13. Thus, please withdraw the rejection.

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- 5) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1 to 3, 12, 16 and 17, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
Seiji YOSHIMURA et al.  
Applicant

WFF:he/4321  
Enclosures:  
Transmittal Cover Sheet  
Term Extension Request  
Form PTO-2038

By Walter F. Fasse  
Walter F. Fasse  
Patent Attorney  
Reg. No.: 36132  
Tel. 207-862-4671  
Fax. 207-862-4681  
P. O. Box 726  
Hampden, ME 04444-0726

CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being transmitted by telefax to (571) 273-8300 on the date indicated below, and is addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

Walter F. Fasse 3/31/06  
Name: Walter F. Fasse - Date: March 31, 2006